

A NEW SPECIES OF GALACTIA (FABACEAE) IN THE SOUTHEASTERN
UNITED STATES

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Abstract: Galactia minor Duncan (FABACEAE) of the South-eastern United States is described as a new species and compared with the similar G. regularis (L.) BSP.

Certain aspects of the variation in Galactia regularis (L.) BSP. sensu Fernald (1950), Gleason and Cronquist (1963), Wilbur (1963), and Radford et al (1964) have bothered me for many years. Sporadic field and herbarium studies have led me to the conclusion that one segment deserves separate specific rank. It is described below.

GALACTIA MINOR Duncan, sp. nov.

Herba perennis. Caule prostrati, plerumque geniculati, ferentes pilos adpressos antrorsos 0.05-0.25 mm longos; internodia circiter longitudo longissimae foliolae. Folia composita, 18-38 mm longa; foliola 3, elliptica, retusa vel rarerer apiculata, integra, grandissimum 6-14 mm latum et 14-28 mm longum, ferens pilos adpressos antrorsos, Inflorescentiae axillares, 15-40 mm longae et circiter aequae vel breviores quam folia. Flores 1-3(4), 10-17 mm longi. Calyx 6.5-10 mm longus. Legumen 30-42 mm longum, 4-5 mm latum, ferens pilos adpressos antrorsos. Semina (5)6-8.

TYPE: UNITED STATES: Long County, Georgia: Sandhills adjacent to Altamaha River bottom sw of Ludowici, 2 Aug. 1953, Wilbur H. Duncan 16993 (HOLOTYPE, GA 99594).

Perennial herb. Stems prostrate, usually slightly geniculate, rarely twining at the tips, bearing appressed antrorse hairs 0.05-0.25 mm long; internodes about as long as longest leaflet of the adjacent nodes. Leaves compound, 18-38 mm long; leaflets 3, narrowly elliptic to elliptic, retuse or rarely apiculate, entire, largest 6-14 mm wide and 14-28 mm long, bearing small antrorse hairs. Inflorescences axillary, 15-40 mm long and about the length or shorter than the subtending leaves, bearing 1-3(4) flowers from 11-17 mm long. Calyx 6.5-10 mm long. Legume 30-42 mm long, 4-5 mm wide, bearing appressed antrorse hairs. Maximum number of seeds (5)6-8 per legume.

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A selection of other representative G. minor specimens follows to represent the species more widely. Duplicates of these are likely to be in other herbaria. --- Duncan 4001, 28 Aug. 1941, Irwin Co., Ga. Sandhill area just E of Alapaha R., W of Ocilla (GA 49857). -- Thorne 5742, 30 July 1947, Baker Co., Ga. Sandy bank of Flint R. near its junction with Ichawanochaway Creek (GA 37546). -- Cronquist 5514, 18 July 1948, Taylor Co., Ga. Among scattered scrub oak in sandhills 3 mi N of Butler (GA 29354). -- Webster and Wilbur 3574, 25 July 1950, Escambia Co., Fla. Dry oak woods on sandy soil 11 miles W of Pensacola (GA 94657). -- Faircloth 2798, 20 Aug. 1965, Thomas Co., Ga. Floodplain and banks on E side of Ochlocknee R., 5.5 mi SW of Coolidge (NCU 395212). -- Godfrey 71886, 31 Aug. 1972, Liberty Co., Fla. Frequent in longleaf pine-turkey oak, upland ridge, Torreya State Park (FLAS 113724).

DISTRIBUTION: Sandhills, scrub oak pinelands, dry sandy pinelands, fine sandy soils of se Miss, s Ala, nw Fla, Coastal Plain of Ga, inner Coastal Plain of and sw SC, and se Coastal Plain of NC. Absent from Atlantic coastal counties.

Galactia minor is different from the other segments of G. regularis as follows: --

Internodes only a little longer than to much shorter than the largest leaflet of the adjacent nodes, stems often geniculate and rarely twining, hairs on the stem always antrorse and 0.05-0.25 mm long, largest leaflets 14-28 mm long, longest inflorescences little if any longer than to shorter than the subtending leaves. Flowers 1-3(4)
----- G. minor

Several to most internodes (especially those toward the base) much longer than the largest leaflet of the adjacent nodes, stems not geniculate and occasionally twining, hairs on stems occasionally antrorse but more often retrorse and 0.1-0.8 mm long, largest leaflets 25-50 mm long, longest inflorescences longer than to sometimes more than twice as long as or rarely about as long as leaves, flowers 4-many ----- G. regularis

I have no strong opinion concerning how to treat those plants of "G. regularis" with antrorse hairs -- as another species, as a variety or part of G. minor, or as being allied with G. regularis. I know of others currently interested in this subject and leave this decision for them to make. It is interesting that Small (1933) reserved the name G. regularis for those individuals having minutely retrorse-pubescent stems. However, none of the other species he includes can be the antrorse-haired G. minor described here.

G. minor might also be confused with G. floridana T. & G. var. microphylla Chapman but the type specimen (labeled:- Herb. Chapm --Galactia floridana T. & G. var. microphylla -- Florida -- Southern Flora) at the New York Botanical Garden has longer and spreading hairs and the leaflets are mostly apiculate. Also a specimen in the Gray Herbarium presumed to be one of Chapman's from Florida [labeled:- Galactia microphylla, Sp. n. (sine fl. et fr)], although with retuse leaflets, has spreading to somewhat retrorse hairs to 0.6 mm long on the stems. Furthermore, neither of these specimens has geniculate stems. This microphylla material seems more closely allied to G. floridana (Chapman, 1889).

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